

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 05219 271745Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O R 271604Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9010

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 5219

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NO SV

SUBJ: GUIDANCE ON U.S. RESERVATION RE SVALBARD TREATY

REF: OSLO 5158 (NOTAL)

1. DANISH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON ME NOVEMBER 26 TO ASK FOR FURTHER DETAILS REGARDING NOTE TO NORWAY (REFTEL) IN WHICH WE RESERVED OUR POSITION ON ANY RIGHTS WE MIGHT HAVE ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OFF SVALBARD UNDER THE 1920 PARIS TREATY. IT EMERGED UNDER MY QUESTIONING THAT DENMARK IS INTERESTED IN EXAMINING OUR POSITION IN THE LIGHT OF ITS CONFLICT WITH BRITAIN OVER AN ISLAND WHICH--AS I UNDERSTOOD IT--THE UK CLAIMS SOUTHEAST OF THE FAROE ISLANDS. DEPENDING ON WHETHER THE UK OR DENMARK HAS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLAND, AND CONSEQUENTLY OVER ITS CONTINENTAL SHELF, ONE OR THE OTHER COUNTRY WOULD STAND TO BENEFIT SUBSTANTIALLY FROM ANY SUCCESSFUL SEARCH FOR OFF-SHORE OIL. I STALLED THE AMBASSADOR'S REQUEST TO SEE THE TEXT OF OUR NOTE BY EXPLAINING THAT I WAS AUTHORIZED AT PRESENT ONLY TO SHOW THE NOTE TO THE BRITISH. DANISH AMBASSADOR HAS NOW PHONED ME AGAIN TO ASK TO SEE TEXT.

2. NETHERLANDS COUNSELOR ALSO PHONED DCM TODAY TO ASK FOR DETAILS ABOUT OUR NOTE, EXPLAINING THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK SERIOUSLY INTO THE SVALBARD QUESTION,
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AND BRITISH COUNSELOR HAS ALSO ASKED TO SEE OUR TEXT.

3. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO SHOW TEXT SINCE BY WITHHOLDING TEXT FROM DANES BUT NOT FROM UK, WE MAY APPEAR PARTISAN. MOREOVER, WE DISCOURAGE UNINFORMED SPECULATION ABOUT ITS CONTENTS BY BEING FRANK ON ISSUE OF COMMON CONCERN TO SIGNATORY POWERS. I WOULD, OF COURSE, PROPOSE TO ASK NORWEGIANS FIRST WHETHER THEY HAVE ANY STRONG OBJECTIONS TO OUR RELEASING TEXT ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, ALTHOUGH FACT THEY CHOSE TO RELEASE INFO ABOUT OUR NOTE SUGGESTS THEY WILL HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON WHETHER WE MAY SHOW THE TEXT OF OUR NOTE TO OTHER NATO ALLIES, AND WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN TOLD ALLIES IN WASHINGTON. APPRECIATE IF WE COULD RECEIVE GUIDANCE BY OB FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29 IN VIEW OF NATO COUNSELORS LUNCHEON THAT DAY.
BYRNE

NOTE: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER INSTRUCTIONS S/S-O, MS. ELTZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOVEREIGNTY, CONTINENTAL SHELF, TERRITORIAL WATERS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC NOTES
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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